

Today's News - Thursday, July 12, 2012

- Iconic projects, moronic rules (and a "protest award"): 2012 Olympics architects are none too pleased they're forbidden to enter projects in awards programs.
- Plans for a "gaping hole" in downtown Atlanta to become "a signature transportation hub would relegate the sunken tangle of railroads and parking lots now known as the 'Gulch' to a distant memory."
- A study highlights fears that a number of stadiums planned for Brazil's 2014 World Cup "are out of context, out of scale and at risk of becoming unsustainable 'white elephant' infrastructure pieces."
- One of China's last walled cities "is having an identity crisis": can it "pursue preservation without Disney-fication?"
- Hall Kaplan has a personal encounter with the "precarious nature of guerilla planning" (with a side trip through the "costly indulgences" that design competitions have become).
- Madrid-based architects launch the Urban Solid Waste Project in Cairo with a plastic-bag cloud for the city (not all neighborhoods were convinced).
- FAT, Wigglesworth, and others weigh in with their solutions to the affordable living dilemma in the U.K.
- Saffron x 2: cautious but high hopes for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's "ambitious" master plan that "proposes some of the best ideas we've seen in a while for the city's ill-treated waterfronts."
- She cheers two small regional museums that are models of how design can combine art and commerce with spaces that "accommodate income generators with finesse."
- Brussat minces no words about what the critics get wrong about Stern's Museum of the American Revolution: it "will be plenty revolutionary."
- Hopes to save Johansen's Stage Center in Oklahoma City as a children's museum are dashed; needless to say, developers are already chomping at the bit.
- An impressive shortlist of three to vie for U.S. Department of State's residential annex in Paris.
- Colgate University taps Adjaye for its new Center for Art and Culture in upstate New York.
- A stellar line-up of winners in Canada's 2012 National Urban Design Awards (great presentation).
- Winners of the New York CityVision 2012 Competition offer "a mix of humor, anxiety, and a bit of eccentricity."

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Olympics marketing rules are damaging British business, says Tessa Jowell: Architects told they cannot enter awards based on their London 2012 involvement unless they are official sponsors...another example of the "draconian" impact of the rules... -- Wilkinson Eyre- *Guardian (UK)*

'Gulch' planners take big leap toward redeveloping downtown site: The gaping hole in downtown Atlanta could eventually be filled with a signature transportation hub...would relegate the sunken tangle of railroads and parking lots now known as the "Gulch" to a distant memory. -- FXFOWLE; Cooper Carry [images]- *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Will Brazil's 2014 World Cup Plans Crash and Burn? A study recorded the mounting fears that four of the 12 arenas, including the major stadium in Brasilia, are out of context, out of scale and at risk of becoming unsustainable 'white elephant' infrastructure pieces. - *DesignBuild Source (Australia)*

Can an Ancient Chinese City Pursue Preservation Without Disney-fication? One of China's last walled cities is having an identity crisis: Pingyao escaped the purge under Mao's regime struggles today against two different and disturbing futures...has been on the preservationist radar for some 30 years. By Debra Bruno [images]- *The Atlantic Cities*

The Precarious Nature of Guerilla Planning: How forlorn spaces might be developed as community resources that lend a sense of place, however fleeting, can be a precarious exploit...We thought we found a viable site, a long abandoned rail line now a weed encrusted, beaten dirt path... By Sam Hall Kaplan- *PLANitzen*

Experimental architects build a plastic cloud for the city: Perception of public space in Cairo has dramatically changed...and many initiatives have been dwelling with the topic...What the Urban Solid Waste Project focuses on, though, is not to simply reuse certain materials, but also to suggest shared solutions for the community's problems. -- Basurama; Omar Nagati- *Egypt Independent*

Home truths: architects tackle the housing crisis: As Britain's housing shortage deepens, we asked top architects for their solutions to the affordable living dilemma. -- Charles Holland/FAT; Sarah Wigglesworth; Lynsey Hanley; Kevin McCloud; Dickon Robinson/Living Architecture [images, links]- *Guardian (UK)*

CHOP expansion could bring jobs, traffic: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is wrapping up an ambitious master plan...on the city's emerging Schuylkill waterfront...This is not your average medical campus...show a strong sensitivity to the surroundings...proposes some of the best ideas we've seen in a while for the city's ill-treated waterfronts. By Inga Saffron -- *Cooper Robertson & Partners*- *Philadelphia Inquirer*

If we must commingle art and commerce, 2 museums show us the way: To replace the lost government aid, museums everywhere are turning to more overtly commercial, moneymaking ventures...small museums in Doylestown and Allentown accommodate these income generators with finesse...James A. Michener Art Museum [and] the Allentown Art Museum... By Inga Saffron -- *KieranTimberlake; EwingCole; Olin; VSBA/Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates* [images]- *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Revolutionary Revolutionary museum: What the critics resist acknowledging is that Stern's design is by far the more genuinely revolutionary...The modernist movement in architecture is a century old...Most people dislike it, and are glad traditional beauty is fighting back...Philadelphia's new Museum of the American Revolution will be plenty revolutionary. By David Brussat -- *Robert A.M. Stern* [images]- *Providence Journal (Rhode Island)*

Children's museum group ends effort to save Oklahoma City's Stage Center as building goes up for sale: ...decided to move on because the project couldn't be funded...development community already showing signs it is eager to submit bids. By Steve Lackmeyer -- *John Johansen (1970)*- *The Oklahoman*

Initial Design Team Shortlist Announced for Paris Residential Annex: The Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations has shortlisted three design teams...project is the second solicited under OBO's Design Excellence program. -- *Allied Works Architecture; Mack Scogin/Merril Elam Architects; Michael Maltzan Architecture*- *U.S. Department of State*

Colgate University chooses architect for art center project: David Adjaye will lead off the design process for planned

Architecture Canada | RAIC, Canadian Institute of Planners, and Canadian Society of Landscape Architects announce the recipients of the 2012 National Urban Design Awards -- Claude Cormier + Associés; Waterfront Toronto; The Planning Partnership; Sylvie Perrault architects/Atelier Urban Face; Phillips Farevaag Smullenberg; Diamond Schmitt Architects; CEI Architecture Planning Interiors; Broadway Malyan; Roland Berger Strategy Consultants; Brook McIlroy/Ryan Gorrie; etc. [images]- Architecture Canada | Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

New York CityVision 2012 Competition Results Announced: The winners speculated on possible futures for New York while commenting on the effects of today's development with a mix of humor, anxiety, and a bit of eccentricity. -- Eirini Giannakopoulou/Stefano Carera/Hilario Isola/Matteo Norzi; Enrico Pieraccioni/Claudio Granato; Miles Fujiki [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Campus Collective: Leers Weinzapfel Associates Rethinks Higher Education Design: Addressing the interconnectivity of campus environs and student experience. By John Gendall- ArchNewsNow



-- Toyo Ito & Associates: Ken Iwata Mother and Child Museum, Imabari City, Japan

-- Exhibition: "Show Me Your Model" - Danish Architecture Centre/DAC, Copenhagen, Denmark

-- Steven Holl Architects: Daeyang Gallery and House, Seoul, Korea

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